

**Courtenay Wind Farm
Case No. PU-13-64**

EXHIBIT 18

At the public hearing on the Certificate of Site Compatibility application (“Application”) for the Courtenay Wind Farm (“Project”), held on July 12, 2013, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) Staff requested that Courtenay Wind Farm, LLC (“CWF”), provide an update regarding conversations with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (“USFWS”) Migratory Bird Office as of the filing of its late-filed exhibits.

Per the direction of the USFWS District Office in Bismarck, North Dakota, CWF contacted the USFWS Migratory Bird Office in Denver, Colorado to discuss next steps concerning an eagle nest identified within the Project area. The Migratory Bird Office directed CWF back to the USFWS District Office in Bismarck, indicating that the District Office should handle any initial coordination efforts.

Since speaking with the Migratory Bird Office, CWF has been in contact with the USFWS District Office in Bismarck and is currently coordinating with that office regarding next steps concerning the eagle nest, which may include seeking an Eagle Take Permit. As discussed during the testimony presented by CWF at the July 12, 2013 public hearing, an Eagle Take Permit is a voluntary permit and is not required in order to begin construction of the Project.

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